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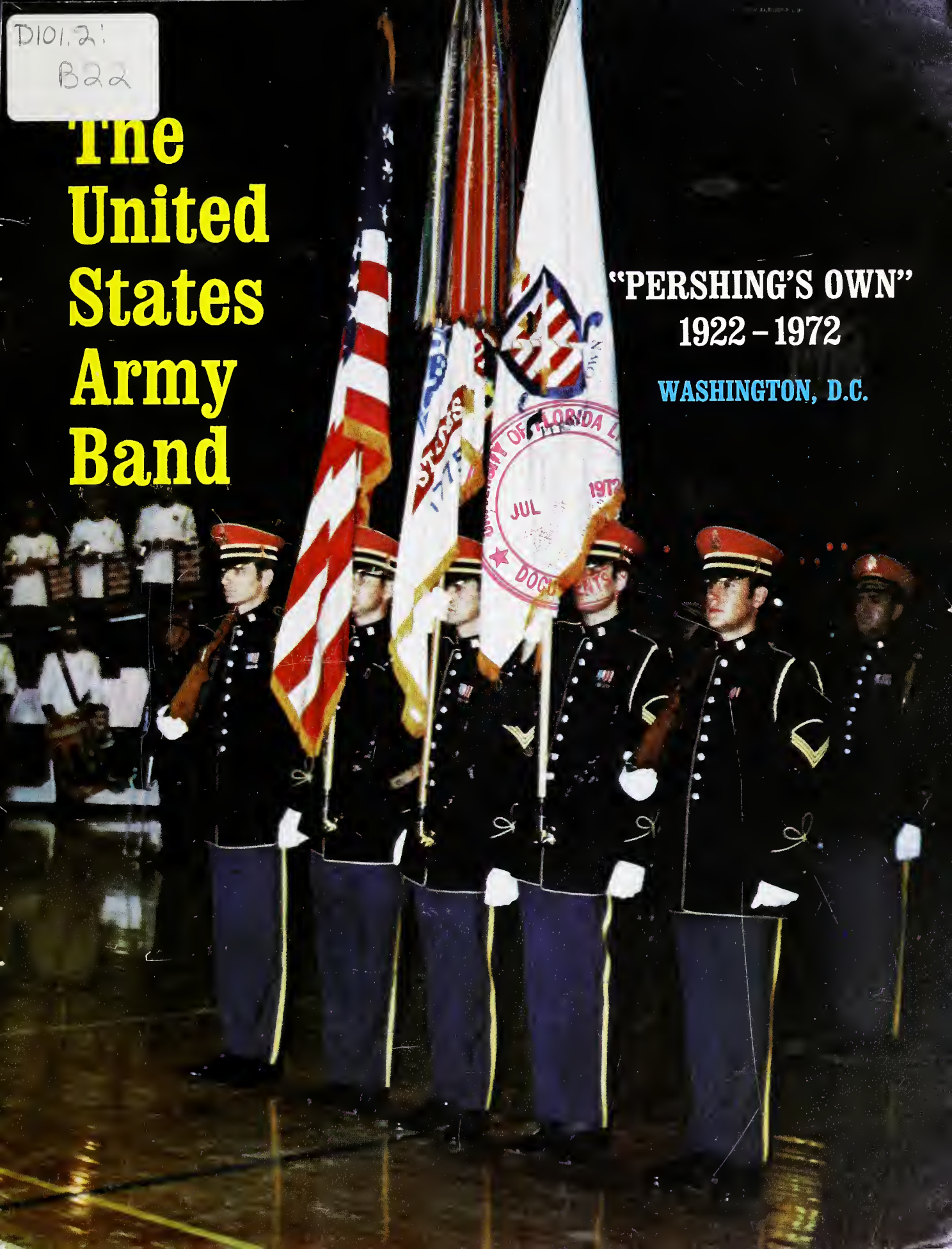
The United States Army Band

"PERSHING'S OWN"
1922 – 1972

WASHINGTON, D.C.



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The Story of "PERSHING'S OWN"

The United States Army Band

"You will organize and equip the Army Band." With this concise memorandum, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, in January 1922 ordered the realization of a dream which he had held since his World War I days as Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe.

John Joseph Pershing did not want to be a soldier. In 1881 he took an examination for West Point, hoping to get an inexpensive education, and within months, was on his way to becoming the most famous U.S. soldier since George Washington. In the course of his military career, he led his men against the Indians of the Southwest, the Moros in the Philippines, against Pancho Villa in Mexico, and finally, as Commander in Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, against the Germans in World War I.

Pershing was the soldier's soldier, with a jutting jaw, an imperious eye and a back as straight as a lance. An exacting leader, he was a spit-and-polish soldier who inspired intense loyalty among his men.

General Pershing had been impressed by the excellence of the top-level British and French military bands, and was determined that the United States Army should have a band second to none, for representation at the highest echelon of command. The tersely worded memorandum was directed to Captain Parry Lewis, who secured musicians from bands throughout the Army and gathered them at Fort Hunt, in the vicinity of Washington. Although Captain Lewis was designated commanding officer, he was not a musician and Warrant Officer Francis Leigh was initially placed in charge of all musical aspects, as Bandmaster. The first man to receive the official appointment as leader, however, was Captain William J. Stannard. Soon after the band was organized, it became evident that Fort Hunt was too distant from the ceremonial sites of the Capital for operational efficiency, so the band was moved to the Army War College, now Fort Lesley J. McNair, in urban Washington.

Under Captain Stannard's direction, the band quickly won the hearts of the American people. As the senior band of the senior armed service it led President Coolidge's Inaugural Parade in 1923, initiating a tradition which has been con-

tinued for every President since that date. A regular series of radio programs was established, and those live broadcasts were heard throughout America for two generations. Between 1928 and 1931, the band's concert tours included more than 230 cities in 41 states, no mean accomplishment in those days before widespread air travel. Captain Stannard wisely initiated a "good neighbor policy" in music, and as the recognized exponent of Latin-American music, the Army Band, with more than 400 Latin-American selections in its library, was chosen to become our Government's official musical ambassador to the Ibero-American Exposition in Seville, Spain in 1929. It was the first time a military band had been designated to represent our country in this manner.

As America's largest ocean liner, "Leviathan" sailed away from New York, news cameras recorded the sight of the 90-man band in concert on the deck, performing John Philip Sousa's march, "La Flor de Sevilla," written especially for their tour. For six weeks they performed to immense and enthusiastic audiences. After their command performance in Madrid, King Alfonso XIII complimented Captain Stannard with the statement that the Army Band was the best military band he had ever heard. At the International Exposition in Barcelona, General Pershing's dream came true when, closely following performances by the Royal Italian Band and France's famous La Garde Republicaine Band, the Army Band was acclaimed by 19,000 people, zealously expressing their approval of American band music.

When Captain Stannard retired in 1935, he was succeeded by Thomas F. Darcy, the designated assistant leader, who also had been featured as a trumpet soloist on the Spanish tour. In accordance with the Act of Congress which designated the rank of the Leader, Darcy was advanced to the grade of Captain. The years leading up to World War II were pleasantly-paced, with the band scheduling concerts, broadcasts, and transcontinental tours between the relatively few official ceremonies and military parades.

In 1943, Captain Darcy and his men were ordered overseas to entertain our fighting men and our allies, and Captain Darcy now became commanding officer as well as leader. This time their "tour" lasted two years, and their itinerary included seventeen countries, with such cities as Casablanca, Algiers, London, Versailles, Metz, Antwerp, Luxembourg, La Havre, Rouen, Cherbourg, and Paris. The "Pershing Gray" concert uniform which had been so proudly introduced on the Spanish tour was left in Algiers, and steel helmets, field jackets, and combat boots became strangely practical. The "tour" also included an unscheduled stop for an event known as The Battle of the Bulge, for which the band was awarded battle honors of the Rhineland Campaign. Thus the Army Band became the only Washington-based military band ever to be ordered overseas to participate in a theater of combat operations.

When the band returned from Europe in 1945, it became permanently based at Fort Myer, Virginia. Captain Hugh Curry became Leader upon Captain Darcy's retirement, and for the next 19 years commanded the band during its greatest period of growth. The experiences of World War II plus the changing musical demands of the postwar years necessitated new diversification in order to accomplish the expanding mission. The ceremonial detachment which had remained at Fort Myer during the band's war-time absence became a permanent ancillary unit, the Ceremonial Band, with the dual role of augmenting the concert band in parade ground activities and performing the daily funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. At the opposite end of the musical spectrum, the Stage Band, which had proved its worth for troop entertainment in hundreds of appearances overseas, also became a permanent operational segment.

In the 1950's The United States Army Strings were organized to meet the requirements of performance for top-echelon visitors of the Defense Department, State Department, and the White House. Today the Strings also furnish the nucleus of the Studio Orchestra, performing for the tape recording of motion picture scores, radio and television broadcasts, and appearing in live concerts and indoor ceremonies.

In 1946, a chorus was organized from members of the band by then CWO Samuel Loboda. As time went on, the new organization gained increasing significance, repeatedly proving its value as a vocal counterpart to the band. In January 1956, with the sympathetic assistance of Secretary of the Army Wilbur M. Brucker and the Chief of Staff, General Maxwell D. Taylor, The United States Army Chorus was reborn as a separate unit. When Major Loboda became Leader and Commanding Officer in 1964, the versatile bass baritone soloist, Allen Crowell, was chosen from

the ranks, commissioned, and appointed Director. Captain Crowell now conducts the chorus in more than a hundred performances each year.

The newest operating segment, The United States Army Herald Trumpets were organized by Sergeants Bramwell Smith and Gilbert Mitchell. With magnificent instruments hand-crafted by Britain's finest artisans, the Heralds made their first appearance, appropriately enough, in July 1959, welcoming Queen Elizabeth II of England and her Prince Consort to Chicago for the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Since then they have been reserved for appearances with the President of the United States or for other occasions of the highest importance.

COLONEL SAMUEL LOBODA

LEADER AND COMMANDING OFFICER

With the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Curry, Major Samuel Loboda became the Army Band's third and highest ranking appointee to the position of Leader and Commanding Officer on July 1st, 1964. He had served as Executive Officer and Associate Bandmaster for eighteen years, sharing the baton with Colonel Curry both on the podium and on the parade ground, and had participated actively in the planning and execution of the expansion and diversification process which had produced the most multifaceted military musical organization in the world. He had composed and arranged more than 600 musical scores, including the official marches of numerous military units as well as Kiwanis International, the American Legion, the National Association of Broadcasters, and Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. What new contributions would he make as commander?

The Secretary of the Army's certificate officially awarding the parenthetical unit designation, "Pershing's Own" forever proclaims the band's indebtedness to its founder. That certificate also bears a subtle but significant distinction in the title of the organization. It is now THE United States Army Band, with the capitalized definite article signifying the fact that, as the official band of the Chief of Staff, the organizational mission encompasses musical service to the entire Army. This is the key principle in Colonel Loboda's administration of his organization.

To assist him in accomplishing this mission he has surrounded himself with a thoroughly dedicated staff of officer and enlisted professionals, each one an expert in his respective field. Each of these men is given the widest possible latitude in carrying out his responsibilities, and in return each is expected to produce the utmost in results. For example, section leaders are permitted to audition and accept the candidates for their own sections, but they are also held strictly responsible for achieving the best in performance. The net result is that every man in every section is made to feel the importance of his contribution.

Since thoroughly professional results are expected, thoroughly professional working conditions must be provided. The working atmosphere of The United States Army Band undoubtedly contributes largely to the fact that the band leads the Fort Myer post in its annual reenlistment rate. In addition, Colonel Loboda has long been a passionate advocate of adequate traveling and housing conditions when on tour. He also keeps a watchful eye on the promotion possibilities of his men, and the relationship between the band's grade structure and the economic conditions for comparable civilian musicians.

The Colonel is a science buff, and is always interested in exploring new technologies and applying them to the organization. As a result, the technical support section is the finest in the armed services today. Equipped with custom-designed state-of-the-art electronic hardware, these superior technicians not only enhance the band's presentations before live and electronic audiences, but they also produce more than a million

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General W. C. Westmoreland, Chief of Staff, United States Army awarding the Meritorious Unit Commendation to The United States Army Band and Chorus.

feet of recorded tape each year for both armed forces and civilian public service outlets.

Whereas the band formerly confined its military services largely to the Washington area, modern communications technology now permits the organization to respond promptly to requests from throughout the world. In keeping with that key principle of musical service to the entire Army, the library, supply, and administrative sections are constantly ready to assist other Army bands wherever they may be. It is not at all unusual to be sending a march arrangement to a band in Alaska, assisting in the procurement of plastic clarinets for a band in Vietnam, or screening audition records to find a tuba player who is willing to enlist for a band in Kansas. Since only a comparatively few vacancies occur each year, such personnel referrals annually number more than 300.

Perhaps the most fortunate result of Colonel Loboda's command policies is that they permit him to devote his own efforts to those areas where they are needed the most at any given moment, and even allow him time for his favorite occupation of composing. His compositions have brought him many honors, the most impressive of which is the "Emmy" awarded for "Night of the Miracle." Colonel Loboda composed the score for this nativity music drama in 1961, and The United States Army Band and Chorus perform it each year in DAR Constitution Hall as the Military District of Washington's musical Christmas gift to the people of the Washington area. A color television adaptation of the 1964 production won WRC-TV the coveted "Emmy" as the year's outstanding cultural production in the Washington area. In 1965, a second "Emmy" was awarded to Colonel Loboda for the musical direction.

Other honors have resulted from his wholehearted support of musical and patriotic civilian and military organizations. In March 1965, he was unanimously elected president of the American Bandmasters Association, the elite organization of the nation's band conductors, composers and arrangers. On January 5, 1971, General Westmoreland, Chief of Staff of the Army, paid a surprise visit to The United States Army Band to present Colonel Loboda with the Legion of Merit. In 1967, he was one of four recipients of the National Recognition Award of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Along with President Nixon, he enjoys the distinction of having been presented a special bronze statue of George Washington from the Board of Trustees of that organization. The inscription to Colonel Loboda reads:

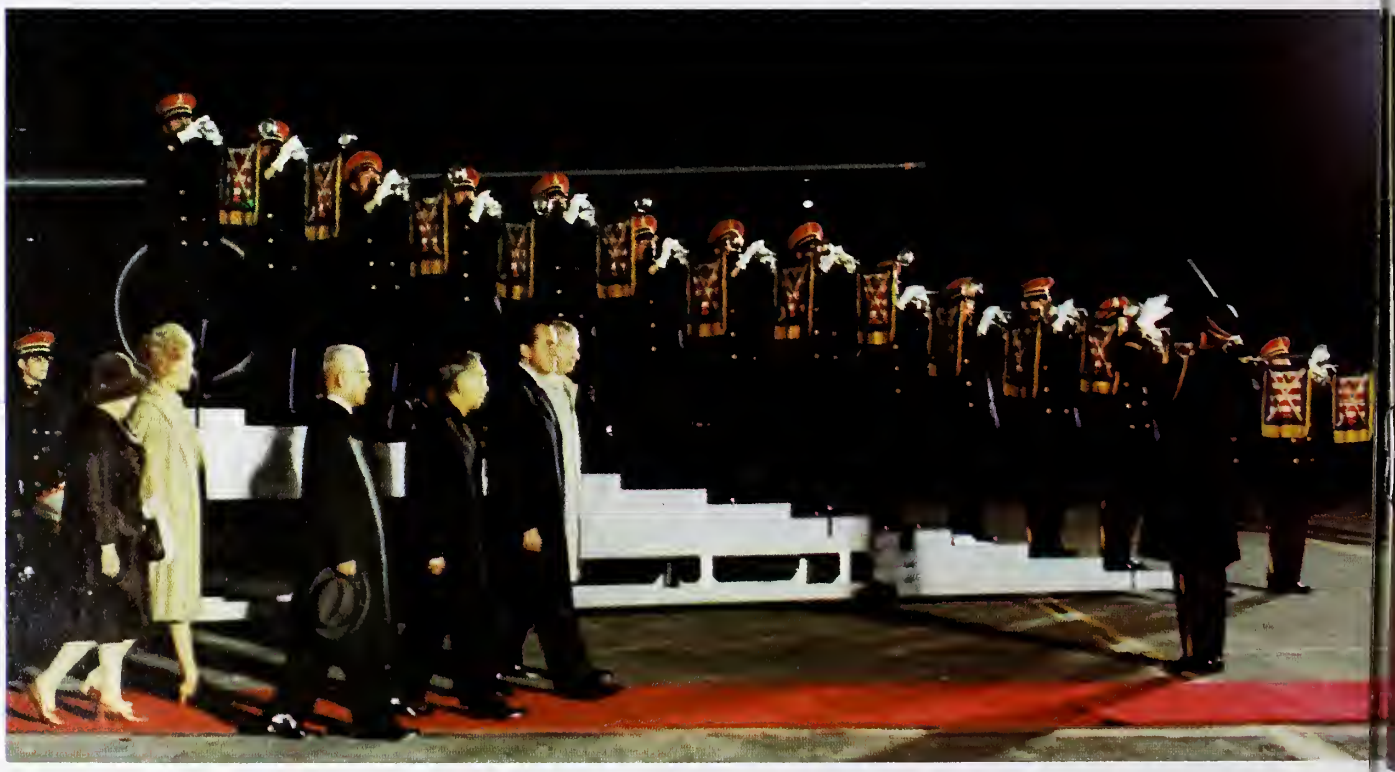
"Exemplary Patriot, Soldier,
Distinguished Composer and Director"

The latest chapter in the story of "Pershing's Own" began when Major General Kenneth G. Wickham, The Adjutant General of the Army, and Mrs. Loboda pinned the silver eagles on the new colonel's shoulders. At the completion of the reading of his promotion orders, Colonel Loboda turned toward the assembled men of the band and chorus and saluted them. Their response was a spontaneous and thunderous applause which filled the room for several minutes. The gesture and the response were eloquent testimony of the mutual esteem in which the colonel and his men hold for each other.

Only a few hours later The United States Army Band and Chorus were winging their way to a concert site 1400 miles away in Moorhead, Minnesota, where the 21st Annual Northwest Band and Orchestra Clinic brought an audience of 10,500 people to be enthralled by their music and pageantry. There they unfolded their musical panorama of America's struggles of the past, her achievements of the present, and her hopes for the future.

The story of our country is also the story of our Army—and telling the Army story in music is the mission of "Pershing's Own."

The United States Army Band as they participated in General Dwight D. Eisenhower's funeral.



The United States Army Herald Trumpets performing for the Emperor of Japan, His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Hirohito when greeted by President Nixon.

The United States Army Band escorts President Nixon to the White House in his inaugural parade.

The United States Army Strings.

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FIFTY YEARS OF TRA

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DITION AND HISTORY

The United States Army Herald Trumpets

With a flourish of pageantry and the sounds of glory The United States Army Herald Trumpets provide the spectacular opening for official ceremonies at The White House. This unit first appeared when they welcomed the Queen of England and her Prince consort to Chicago for the opening of the St. Lawrence Waterway in 1959.

This outstanding performance by The Herald Trumpets, an ensemble of The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own), led to numerous appearances with the President of The United States hailing the arrival of visiting dignitaries from all over the world to The White House. They have traveled with the President to dedication ceremonies with the Prime Minister of Canada in Messina, New York; to Los Angeles to honor the Apollo 11 Astronauts; to San Francisco for the President of Korea; and to Anchorage, Alaska where they performed for the Emperor of Japan, His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Hirohito when greeted by President Nixon.

The United States Army Herald Trumpets are made-up of the finest instrumentalists in the Armed Forces. From the gleaming silver bells of their specially built instruments drape the red, white, and blue Heraldic Tabards symbolizing the United States Army as a whole, and representing the military music and pageantry that has made The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own) and The United States Army Herald Trumpets famous throughout the world.

The United States Army Chorus

The United States Army Chorus has earned an enviable reputation in the worlds of serious and popular music. It has performed in every major city of the United States; at many colleges and universities, from Carnegie Hall to the President's State Dinner for the Apollo 11 astronauts in Los Angeles. Concerts with The United States Army Band are presented each week throughout the Washington, D.C. summer season at the beautiful Watergate on the Potomac and on the East Plaza of the Capitol building. Additionally, the Chorus frequently appears at official functions of the White House and State Department.

The Chorus feels a particular responsibility to perform the great works written specifically for male voices by the master composers; and has been highly acclaimed for its performances of Brahms and Schubert, of Bartok and Martinu. Equally well received have been the Chorus' appearances as popular entertainers, including presentations on the television shows of Ed Sullivan, Steve Allen and Mike Douglas.

It can truly be said that the quality of musical excellence displayed by The United States Army Chorus is a shining tribute to the Service they represent.

"The Army Blues"

"The Army Blues," a new 17-piece band, has been formed as an integral part of the already world-famous United States Army Band (Pershing's Own). Composed of members selected from within the organization, the group was formed in 1969 for the purpose of demonstrating the diversity and flexibility of the new Action Army, Having performed in and around the Nation's Capital, "The Army Blues" have been well received and have fast become noted for their exciting arrangements and artistic flair with the "now" sound in music.

The band concentrates on up-to-date renditions of contemporary and rock music characteristic of the seventies. The band also features a lead vocalist, Walt Skees, who is a noted performer in his own right through night club, radio, and TV appearances. In its efforts to appeal to the younger generation, "The Army Blues" keeps abreast of the current and innovative sounds of the most popular and successful performers of today.

Indeed, it is an exciting and refreshing addition, as modern as tomorrow.

The United States Army Strings

In the 1950's The United States Army Strings were organized to meet the requirements of performance for top-echelon visitors of the Defense Department, State Department, and the White House. The "Strolling Strings" have since become a much sought after addition to many receptions and dinners.

While a great majority of their activities consist of performing in ensemble groups such as chamber orchestras, today the Strings also furnish the nucleus of the Studio Orchestra, performing for the tape recording of motion picture scores, such as the Army's "Big Picture" series, radio and television broadcasts, and appearing in live concerts and indoor and outdoor ceremonies such as the Nixon-Cox wedding in June of 1971. This orchestra also provides the musical score for the annual Christmas Pageant "The Night of the Miracle".

Truly, The United States Army Strings is a vital and highly professional musical ensemble of The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own".

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
EUGENE W. ALLEN

CAPTAIN ALLEN CROWELL

FIRST LIEUTENANT
G. BARRY EPPERLEY

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
FRANK F. CHIARELLO, JR.

ASSOCIATE BANDMASTERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND DIRECTOR, THE UNITED STATES ARMY HERALD TRUMPETS

Lieutenant Colonel Eugene W. Allen began his musical studies at the age of seven under his father, a professional and school band director in Meridian, Texas. A graduate of Teachers College, Columbia University, he has studied trumpet with James Burke of the Goldman Band and Lloyd Geisler of the National Symphony Orchestra. He has also received advanced instruction in orchestral conducting from Hugo Fiorato, of the New York City Ballet, and in band arranging and orchestration from Mort Lindsay, Musical Director for the Merv Griffin TV Show.

During his Army service, Colonel Allen has been assigned every type of duty in the Army Band Program, including instrumentalist, arranger, drum major, training officer, staff supervisor, and commander. He served as enlisted bandleader of the 7th Hospital Band at Valley Forge Army Hospital, the Second Infantry Division in Korea, and The Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Georgia. Honor graduate of his class in the Army Warrant Officer Course, he was assigned to command the all-paratrooper 101st Airborne Division Band, where he earned senior parachutist wings.

In 1961, Colonel Allen received a direct appointment as a commissioned officer and was assigned as Staff Bands Officer in The Adjutant General's Office in Washington. He subsequently served three years at West Point as Associate Bandmaster of the United States Military Academy Band. In 1966 he was selected to command the U. S. Army Element, School of Music, with responsibility for the schooling of all Army Warrant Officer Bandmasters, and Enlisted Bandsmen. In 1968, he was reassigned to The Adjutant General's Office where he again served as Staff Bands Officer until his assignment to The United States Army Band in November 1970. Colonel Allen's military decorations include three awards of the Army Commendation Medal, and most recently, the Meritorious Service Medal.

A member of the Music Educators National Conference, the National Band Association, and most recently, the American Bandmasters Association, he has also maintained liaison with educational and professional activities in music by means of appearances as clinician and adjudicator.

DIRECTOR, THE UNITED STATES ARMY CHORUS

Captain Allen Crowell has been Director of The United States Army Chorus and an Associate Bandmaster of The United States Army Band since 1964.

Winner of a half-dozen significant awards and scholarships, this native of Mobile, Alabama studied at Florida State University and received his Bachelor of Music degree from Princeton's Westminster Choir College. Later he earned a Master of Music degree from The Catholic University of America. His conducting training was under Dr. John Finley Williamson and Nicholas Harsanyi, and his vocal work with Walter Johnson and Todd Duncan.

Upon graduating from Westminster, he entered the Army as an enlisted Member of the Chorus. In 1962 he was designated enlisted Assistant Director, and in 1964 he received a direct commission and assumed his present duties.

While at Westminster, Captain Crowell was bass soloist with the renowned Westminster Choir, toured with them nationally; and appeared twenty-two times with the New York Philharmonic, including four concerts narrating Honegger's "Joan of Arc" with Leonard Bernstein conducting. He has performed as soloist with Washington's National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, and in May of 1966 and 1967, he was bass soloist for the famous Bach Festival of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Captain Crowell is a member of the American Choral Foundation and The Intercollegiate Musical Council.

DIRECTOR, THE UNITED STATES ARMY STRINGS

First Lieutenant Epperley comes well equipped in musical knowledge and experience. The son of a choral director and voice teacher, he studied piano from age five and began singing publicly at age eight. He has performed as bass soloist with many outstanding conductors including Dr. Charles C. Hirt and the late Ingold Dahl. LT Epperley also studied conducting with Mr. Dahl, Dr. Hirt, and Daniel Lewis. He holds a Bachelor's of Music Education and a Master's of Science from Oklahoma State University, and will be receiving his Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Southern California soon. He has studied extensively in the fields of Choral Music, Music History, Choral Arranging, Church Music and Music Education. Since 1964, he has served as Director of Music for various churches as well as C.E. Donart High School, Stillwater, Oklahoma. He was also a teaching assistant to Dr. Hirt with the USC Chamber Singers.

Besides the serious aspects of his music, Lieutenant Epperley has had a great deal of experience in the more popular vein. While attending USC, LT Epperley joined the entertainment division of Disneyland where he was arranger and producer for a popular young show group.

LT Epperley was commissioned through the R.O.T.C. program at Oklahoma State. While there he organized and conducted the R.O.T.C. band and served as a Company Commander. In 1971 he was assigned to The United States Army Band where he presently serves as an Associate Bandmaster, Director of The United States Army Strings, and Assistant Conductor of The United States Army Chorus.

DIRECTOR, "THE ARMY BLUES"

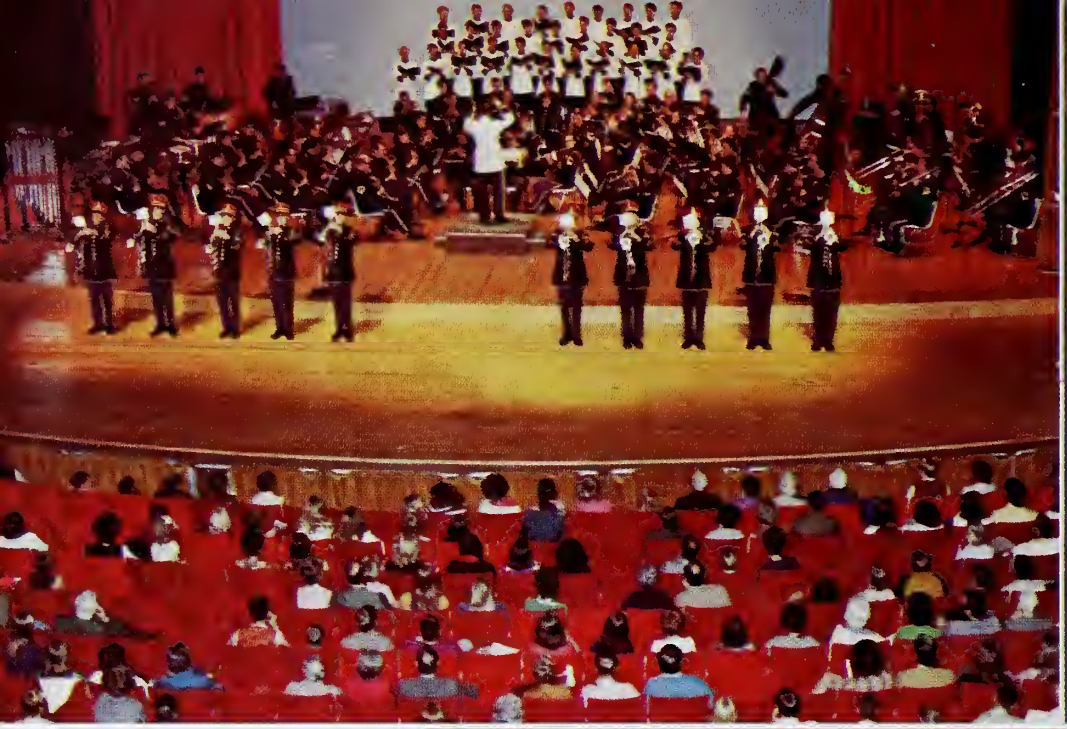
Chief Warrant Officer Frank F. Chiarello, Jr., was graduated from the Francis T. Nichols High School, New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1950 and entered Southeastern Louisiana College in September of that year. In January 1952 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, remaining until August 1961, after which he continued his music studies at the Berklee School of Music and Harvard University.

He entered the Army's music program in May 1963, and was assigned to the 60th Army Band at Fort Polk, Louisiana, as leader of the trumpet section. Shortly thereafter, he was enrolled in the Bandmaster Preparatory Course of the Army Element School of Music, Norfolk, Virginia. Upon his graduation in July 1965, he was appointed Warrant Officer and assigned to the 2nd Armored Division Band, Fort Hood, Texas. In October 1966, he was reassigned to Fort Wolters, Texas, to accomplish the reorganization of the 328th Army Band, which had just been transferred from the Brooklyn Army Terminal.

In October 1967 he began a year's tour of duty as commander of the 266th Army Band at Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam. During this assignment he was responsible for nearly five hundred performances in troop entertainment and civic action programs.

Upon his return to the United States in October 1968, CWO Chiarello became commander of the 392nd Army Band, Fort Lee, Virginia. His music direction of the show "Li'l' Abner" contributed greatly toward the first place award which that production won in the 1970 First U.S. Army Drama Contest. He also received a special individual award from the National Federation of Music Clubs for his performances during the 1970 Parade of American Music competition.

In April 1970 he was reassigned as Staff Bands Officer, Headquarters, First U.S. Army, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, with responsibility for supervising the training, operation, and logistical support of 37 Army bands. In February 1971, he came to his present position with The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own). Mr. Chiarello's military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service and three awards of the Army Commendation Medal.



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The United States Army Band

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